REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 19, 2003. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-8, and 10-29 are in the case.

Claims 21, 23, 24, 28, and 29 were amended to better claim the invention.

At paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action claims 21-25, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hinchey et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,999,541A issued December 7, 1999 (hereinafter Hinchey).

The present invention, as set forth in representative claim 21 comprises in part:

21. A method for operating a router, comprising:

exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability;

receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability, a first control vector from said remote router, said first control vector having source route information from a routing information field (RIF) of a first token ring (TR) explorer frame transmitted by a source end station on a first TR network, said first control vector created at said remote router connected to said first TR network;

extracting said source route information from said first control vector;

loading said extracted source route information into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame; and

transmitting said second TR explorer frame on a second TR network to a destination end station to provide said destination end station with complete source route information representative of an end-to-end session with said source end station.

Hinchey discloses a computer network having a first token ring network connected to an Ethernet network, and the Ethernet network coupled to a second token ring network. Hinchey gives a method for sending a token ring data frame form the first token ring network, through the Ethernet network, to the second token ring network.

Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's claimed novel *exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability;*

receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability.

That is, Applicant claims *exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability* and after the remote router learns that the router supports *RIF passthrough*

capability, the router receives a message from the remote router, where the message requires the router to use its *RIF passthrough capability*. Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of the claimed exchange of *capabilities messages*.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey is legally precluded from anticipating the presently claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because of the absence from Hinchey of Applicant's claimed novel *exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability;*

receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.
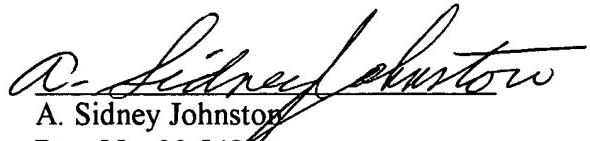
All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account

No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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